

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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51

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 USSS-00 SY-05 INRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /019 W
----- 085038

O 181623Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9200

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 5601

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS ASEC CO

SUBJ: COUNTERFEIT MATTERS

PASS USSS COUNTERFEIT DIV - WASHDC

REF: REFERENCE IS MADE TO FILE NBR 1-23-1507-S

1. INFORMANT 1-23-51 APPEARS TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER IN A CAPACITY OTHER THAN INFORMANT. IT APPEARS HE IS ATTEMPTING TO COVER CERTAIN OF THE SUSPECTS. UNABLE TO COMPLETELY CONVINCE AMERICAN EXPRESS THAT THIS IS TRUE. HOWEVER NOW THAT THE INFORMANT'S ROLE IS KNOWN IT IS NOT A MAJOR PROBLEM.

2. INVESTIGATION HAS DESCLOSED THAT THERE ARE THREE PRINTING LOCATIONS IN COLOMBIA; BOGOTA, CALI AND MEDELLIN. ONE MAJOR PRINTER WHO TRAVELS FROM PLANT TO PLANT. AT THIS TIME THE BOGOTA PLANT APPEARS TO BE DOWN DUE TO EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS. EXACT LOCATION OF PLANTS IS UNKNOWN TO THIS SERVICE AT THIS TIME. PERHAPS LOCATION MUR BE KNOWN TO DAS AND THEY WILL SEIZE.

3. INVESTIGATION HAS FURTHER DEVELOPED DR FABIO MEJIA OCHOA AS THE ONE PERSON WHO CONTROLS THE TRAVELS OF THE MAJOR PRINTER.

4. LUIS RAMIREZ HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS DON LUIS SUAREZ. SUAREZ WORKS FOR MEJIA AND REPORTS DAILY TO MEJIA VIA TELEPHONE.

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5. MEJIA IS A LAWYER AND APPARENTLY A HIGH PRICED ONE. HANDLES

THE CASES FOR MAJOR ORGANIZED CRIME FIGURES IN COLOMBIA.

6. SURVEILLANCE HAS DISCLOSED MEJIA INVOLVEMENT IN VARIOUS CRIMES; HOWEVER DUE TO LACK OF CONSPIRACY LAWS AND UNKNOWN REASONS MIAJIA WILL NOT BE ARRESTED OR INTERVIEWED AT COMPLETION OF THIS CASE. IN FACT IF SUAREZ IS NOT PRESENT AT DELIVERY HE WILL NOT BE ARRESTED OR INTERVIEWED.

7. TWO MILLION IN COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY IS APPARENTLY IN BOGOTA WITH ONE HALF MILLION IN AMERICAN EXPRESS CHECKS. ONE AND ONE HALF (1 1/2) MILLION IN AMERICAN EXPRESS IS TO BE BROUGHT INTO BOGOTA FROM CALI ON 6/18 OR 19/75.

8. IF THE PLAN HOLDS DELIVERY WILL BE MADE IN THREE MOVES ON 6/20/75. ATTEMPTS WILL BE MADE TO COUNT THE COUNTERFEIT PRIOR TO ANY DELIVERY. IF THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED CONTRABAND WILL BE SEIZED PRIOR TO DELIVERY. IF UNABLE TO COUNT AMERICAN EXPRESS IS WILLING TO LET \$100,000(US) GO THROUGH ON THE FIRST MOVE IN AN ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW SUSPECTS TO REMAINING CONTRABAND. VISUAL SURVEILLANCE OF SUAREZ WILL BE INITIATED BY DAS ON 6/18/75. FROM PAST EXPERIENCES NOT MUCH HOPE FOR SUCCESS IN THIS VENTURE. THIS SERVICE HAS EXPLAINED TO AMERICAN EXPRESS THE MANY COMPLICATIONS THAT MAY OCCUR AFTER THE FIRST MOVE AND THE \$100,000(US) PAYMENT. HOWEVER THEY ARE VERY INTERESTED IN BUYING THE CONTRABAND EVEN IF PLANT SITE REMAINS UNKNOWN.

9. SURVEILLANCE MATERIAL THIS SERVICE IS RECEIVING IS EDITED AND IS NOT TIMELY.

10. IF SAIC HOLTZHAUER HAS NOT BEEN CONTACTED PRIOR TO EVENING OF 6/19/75 CALL AT 11S. (EDT) TO BOGOTA
HILTON, NUMBER 32-60-20
ROOM 2701.

11. IN SPITE OF THE INEFFICIENCIES AND PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED GENERAL MATAALLANA (DAS) HAS BEEN EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE.

12. DATE OF RETURN IS UNKNOWN; HOPEFULLY THIS FISCAL YEAR.
WHITE

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